

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

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(Original) A method of processing an X-ray image of articles contained in a transilluminated object and made visible for an observer on a monitor screen, comprising the following steps:

(a) placing individual markings about the image of certain, previously determined articles; and

(b) automatically and stepwise combining the individual markings into a final added marking if at least two individual markings mutually fit; said combining step comprises the steps of

(1) comparing for fit mutually facing sides of two adjoining individual markings; and

(2) determining a ratio of an overlapping area of said two adjoining individual markings to the total area of at least one of said two adjoining individual markings.

2. *(Original)* The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said comparing step comprises the step of comparing lengths and positions of said facing sides.

3. *(Original)* The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said step of determining a ratio comprises the step of determining a ratio of said overlapping area of said two adjoining individual markings with the total area of one of said two adjoining individual markings.

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4. (*Original*) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing said individual markings in a marking list of a memory; said combining step includes the steps of

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- (a) forming an individual added marking from two individual markings resulting from said comparing and determining steps;
 - (b) storing said individual added marking in said marking list;
 - (c) storing said individual markings, from which said individual added marking has been formed, from said marking list in a sub-marking memory of a marking memory as sub-markings of said individual added marking;
 - (d) comparing said individual added marking with a further individual marking called from said marking list for forming a final added marking;
 - (e) adding said final added marking to said marking list; and
 - (f) storing the individual added marking and the further marking, from which said final added marking has been formed, in said sub-marking memory as sub-markings of said final added marking, whereby structures of said sub-markings are preserved.

5. (*Original*) The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said combining step further comprises the step of setting a degree in combining said individual markings for providing an option to display one of individual added markings and individual markings instead of a sole final added marking.

6. (*Original*) The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising the steps of adding the structure of the individual markings and the individual added markings from the

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sub-marking memory to said marking list if one or individual added markings and individual markings are displayed instead of a sole final added marking.

7. (*Original*) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said comparing and determining steps include the step of comparing coordinates in which said individual and individual added markings are positioned.

8. (*New*) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the individual markings are respective rectangles surrounding the image of a respective article.